

Atty. Docket No: 243712US2SDIV
Inventor(s): Riichiro SHIROTA, et al.
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present new application is a divisional of co-pending parent U.S. application serial no. 09/899,155. The present divisional application is submitted to further prosecute new claims 16-33 submitted herein. New claims 16-33 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, by the presently preliminary amendment the specification is amended to reflect the status of this application as a divisional application.

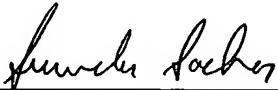
The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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